

# DPC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6 – July 2003

## Mark Your Calendars!

- **DPC Legislation Committee:** Monday, July 21, 2-4 p.m. \*at DPC's Walnut Grove Office
- **Delta Protection Commission:** Thursday, July 24, 6:30 p.m.
- **DPC CALFED Committee:** Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2-4 p.m.

*Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove. Please call (916) 776-2290 if you need directions.*

## California Bay-Delta Authority to Meet on August 14

After years of discussions among stakeholders about long-term governance of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the Legislature enacted former Senator **Jim Costa**'s Senate Bill 1653, the California Bay-Delta Authority Act (Act), establishing the California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA), in 2002.

The Act designated CBDA as an entity under the Resources Agency tasked with overseeing the implementation of the thirty-year CALFED Bay-Delta Program by State and federal agencies. Under the Act, CBDA would consist of representatives from six State agencies, six federal agencies, eight public members (one appointed by Governor Davis from each of five identified geographical regions, one representing the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, and a Senate and an Assembly Appointee), and four non-voting ex-officio members of the Legislature. Because parallel federal legislation authorizing federal agencies' participation on CBDA has not yet been enacted, the six federal agencies have committed to participate in an advisory capacity on the CBDA; until such federal legislation is passed, their representatives will also be non-voting members.

Governor Davis identified his five "regional" appointees in June 2003; with this designation, the membership of the CBDA is complete, and the CBDA will begin meeting in its new capacity. The first meeting will be held Thursday, August 14, 2003, in Sacramento. (For more information, log onto [calwater.ca.gov](http://calwater.ca.gov), or call (916) 445-4511.) The membership of the new Bay-Delta Authority is as follows:

### PUBLIC MEMBERS

**Alfred Montna**, Sacramento Valley

**Paula Daniels**, Southern California

**Susan Kennedy**, San Francisco Bay

**Gary Hunt**, BDPAC appointee

**Patrick Johnston**, Legal Delta

**Marc Holmes**, Senate Appointee

**Jim Costa**, San Joaquin Valley

**Daniel Wheeler**, Assembly Appointee

### STATE MEMBERS

**Mary Nichols**, Resources Agency

**Mike Spear**, CA Dept. of Water Resources

**Winston Hickox**, California Environmental Protection Agency

**Robert Hight**, CA Dept. of Fish and Game

**William Lyons**, CA Dept. of Food and Ag

**Diana Bonta**, CA Dept. of Health Services

#### FEDERAL MEMBERS

**Gale Norton**, Dept. of the Interior

**Wayne Nastri**, Environmental Protection Agency

Lt. Col. **Mark Connelly**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Rodney McInnis**, National Marine Fisheries Service

**Steve Thompson**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Kirk Rodgers**, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Senator **Michael Machado**

Senator **Charles Poochigan**

Assemblyman **Joe Canciamilla**

Assemblyman **Rick Keene**

## **NRCS Offering Seed Money to Develop Delta RC&D Program**

In 2002, Commission staff was approached by trustees of the San Joaquin Resource Conservation District (RCD) and briefed on a federal Farm Bill program, the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program. After learning about how this voluntary program could assist the Commission in implementing projects consistent with its goals of maintaining the Delta's agricultural, environmental, and recreational resources in balance, staff spent a good deal of time educating potential partners about the program and conducting outreach to landowners on the potential benefits of the program. After extensive public outreach, an application was submitted on behalf of sixteen co-sponsors (the California Delta RC&D Steering Committee) for a California Delta RC&D program to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which administers the RC&D and numerous other Farm Bill programs.

The application was submitted to NRCS in October 2002. Twenty-eight applications were received, and USDA has determined that five new RC&D Areas will be authorized. There has been no indication to date of who the successful applicants are, but an announcement is expected at a national conference in Texas later this month.

In the meantime, NRCS has offered \$10,000 to the California Delta RC&D Steering Committee to continue the planning and outreach undertaken in the Delta in 2002.

Delta Protection Commission staff would likely continue to conduct most of the tasks associated with the outreach initiated in 2002, and would also devote some of its time to drafting Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws under which a new nonprofit organization, the California Delta RC&D Council, would operate. Commission staff would be reimbursed for the time and materials associated with this continued outreach on behalf of the Steering Committee.

Commission staff has asked San Joaquin RCD, a member of the California Delta RC&D Steering Committee, to administer these funds on behalf of the California Delta RC&D Steering Committee. San Joaquin RCD has tentatively agreed to do so; the details of the cooperative agreement with NRCS are currently being worked out between NRCS, San Joaquin RCD, and the Steering Committee.

For more information about the proposed California Delta RC&D program, please contact Lori Clamurro at (916) 776-2290.

## Solano County Appoints New Member to Commission

Delta Protection Commission staff is pleased to announce that the Solano County Board of Supervisors have appointed their newest member, **Ruth Forney**, as its representative to the Delta Protection Commission.

Ms Forney, who was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to represent Solano County's Fifth District, will be replacing former Commissioner **Skip Thompson**, who took office as Solano County Assessor in January 2003.

Ms Forney has served as the public health laboratory technician for the County's Health and Social Services Department for over 25 years. She currently serves as president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1280, and has served in various capacities with the SEIU Western Region African American Caucus, the Napa/Solano Central Labor Council, and the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority.

The Commission is pleased to welcome Supervisor Forney, and looks forward to working with her!

## Carnival to Kick Off 31st Annual Pear Fair in Courtland

It's that time of year again: the community of Courtland is gearing up for its annual Pear Fair!

Located about 20 miles south of Sacramento on Highway 160, Courtland has hosted this annual celebration of its most prominent crop — pears — for over thirty years. The Pear Fair is always held on the last Sunday in July.

Entrance to this year's Pear Fair is free, and parking is \$5. As in previous years, this year's event will feature live music (Beer Dawgs from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.), arts and crafts, the Pear Fair Parade and crowning of the Delta Pear Fair Queen, pear games and contests, and food and drinks galore. However, this year's event will also feature a carnival (Shoeppner Shows) with rides and games for all ages. The carnival will be open on Friday (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.), Saturday (noon to 9 p.m.), and all day on Sunday for the Pear Fair.

For more information or discount carnival tickets, call the Pear Fair Hotline at (916) 775-2000.

### Courtland Pear Fair

**DATE:** Sunday, July 27 (*the Carnival runs Friday, July 25 through Sunday, July 27*)

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Bates Park on Magnolia Street, Courtland, CA

**COST:** \$5 parking fee; free Pear Fair admission

## Report Available: Delta Boating Needs Assessment

In 1999, the CA Dept. of Boating and Waterways (CDBW) hired The Dangermond Group, a consulting firm in Sacramento specializing in recreation planning, to conduct an assessment of real and perceived needs related to boating in the Delta. According to CDBW staff, the Delta Boating Needs Assessment is intended to serve as a model for a similar assessment that will cover the entire State, which would in turn be used to justify proposed CDBW expenditures on boating facilities Statewide to the Department of Finance.

The Delta Boating Needs Assessment, completed in January 2003 and authorized for release by the Governor's office in June 2003, contains an updated inventory of the amenities available at the Delta's numerous marinas and public facilities. It also provides projections of recreational use in the Delta over the next 20 years and of the cost to meet both existing and future boating facility needs to meet Delta recreation demand. It also describes potential benefits and impacts to Delta recreation in the context of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The Delta Boating Needs Assessment is available in its entirety on the Department of Boating and Waterways' website: [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov). On this homepage, under "What's New", click on the link for "Delta Boating Needs Assessment 2000-2020". You may also request a CD copy of the report by calling (916) 776-2290.

## Delta Chambers Hosts Second Annual "Taste of the Delta"

The California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau will be hosting its second annual "Taste of the Delta", a food and wine event showcasing the best the Delta has to offer from local wineries and restaurants. "Taste of the Delta" will be held at the historic Ryde Hotel, located at 14340 Highway 160, just south of the town of Walnut Grove.

This year's event includes "all you can eat and drink" hors d'oeuvres and wine (with a commemorative wine glass designed by local Delta artist **Marty Stanley**), silent and live auctions, music, and an opportunity to meet former Oakland Raiders defensive tackle **Art Thoms**.

The money raised for this event will enable Delta Chambers to update its website, distribute information about the Delta, advertise the Delta in various travel publications, and continue its participation on Delta legislative issues.

### Taste of the Delta

**DATE:** Sunday, July 20, 2003

**TIME:** 1:00—4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Ryde Hotel, 14340 Highway 160, Walnut Grove 95690

**COST:** \$24 per person

For more information, contact **Patti Gulick** at (209) 367-9840.